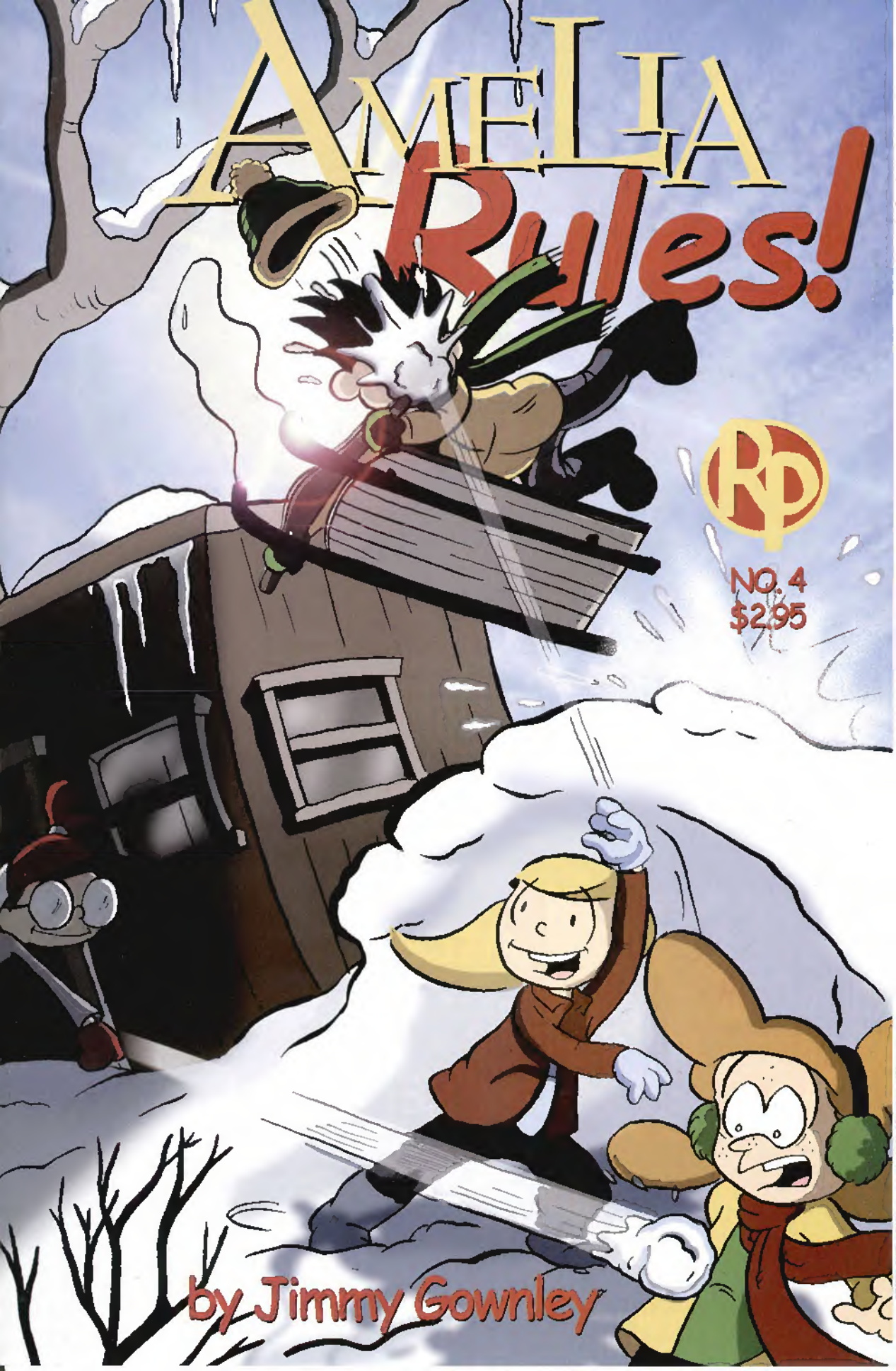
AMELIA
Rules!
NO. 4
$2.95
by Jimmy Gownley

AMELIA Rules!™

#4

WRITTEN ILLUSTRATED
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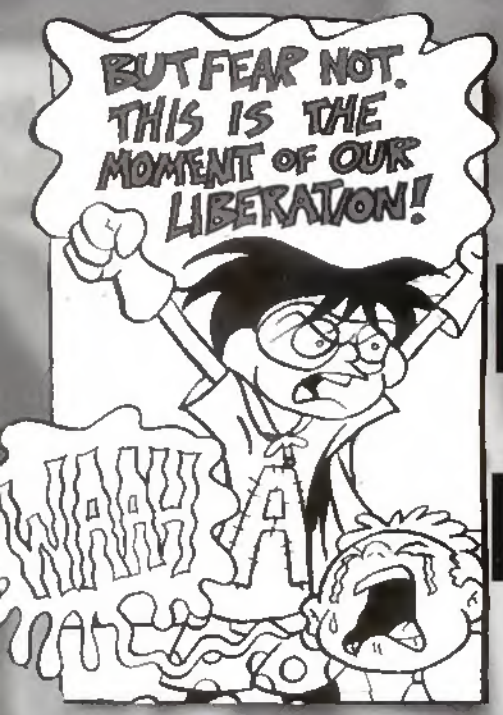
JIMMY GOWNLEY



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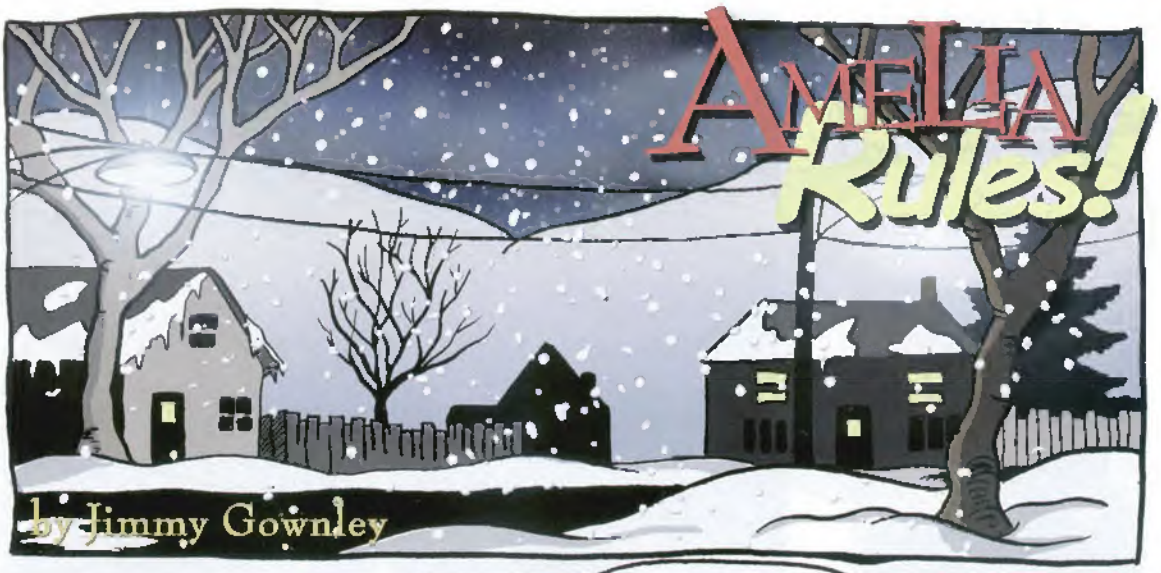
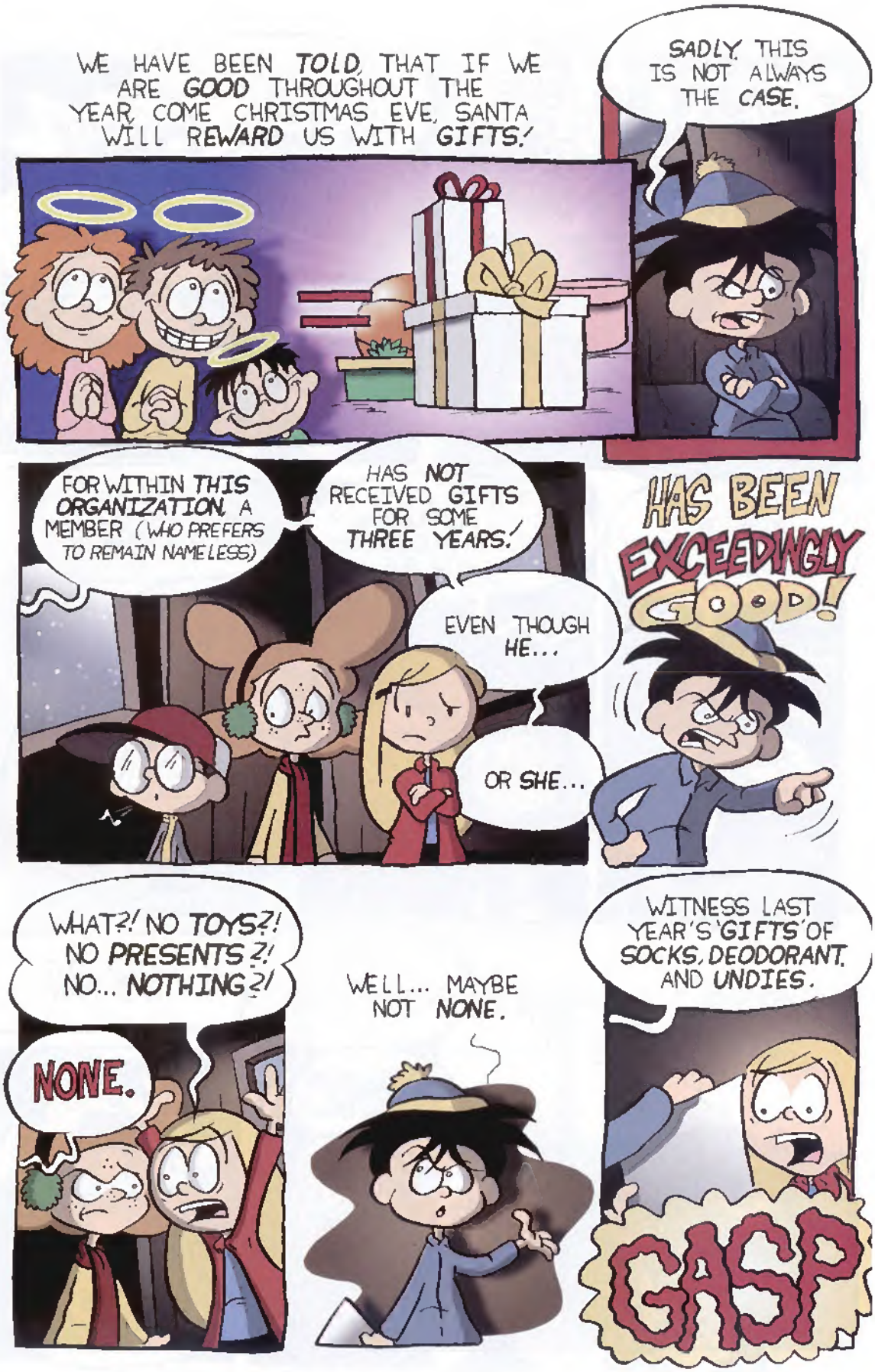


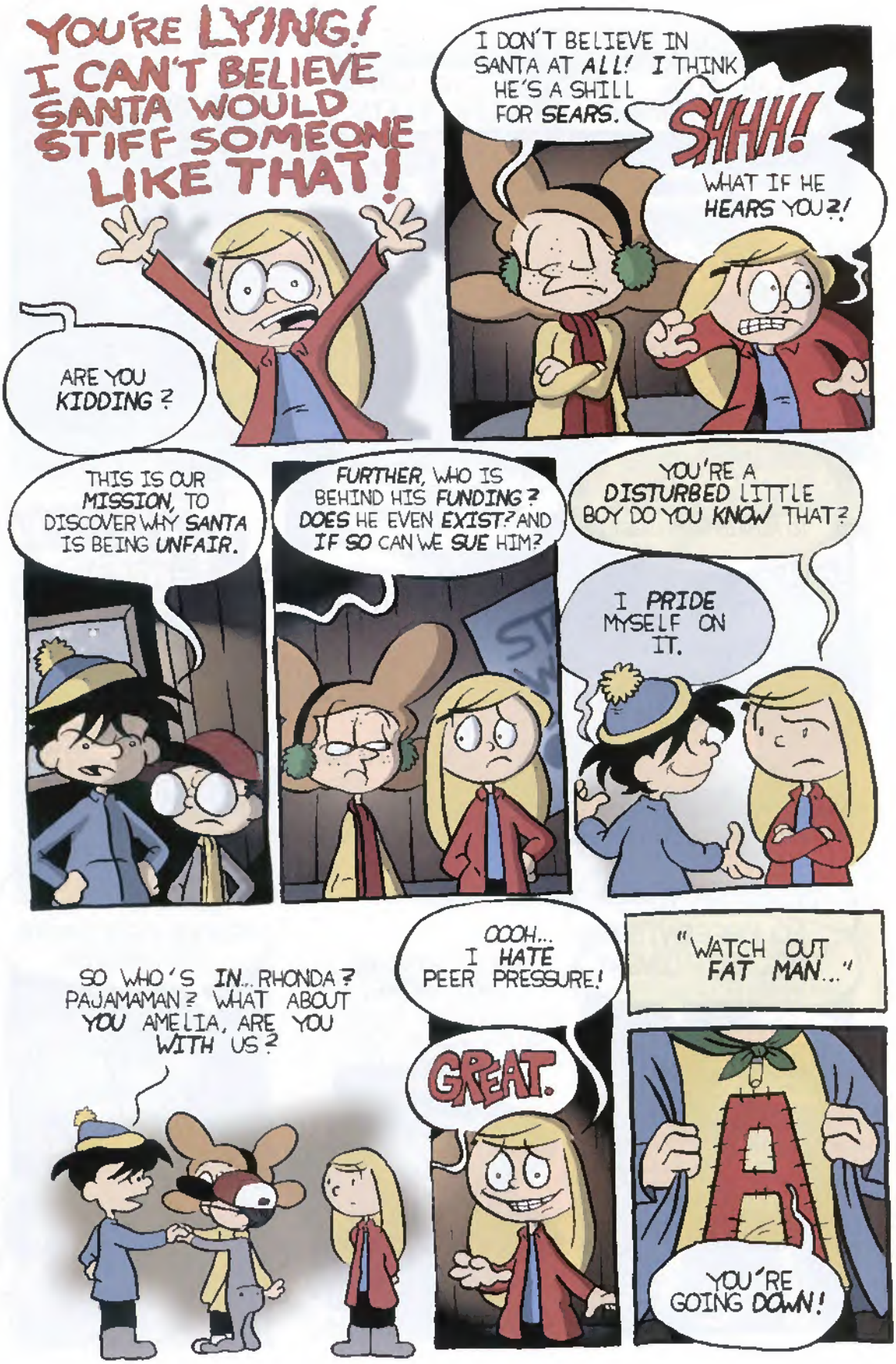
'THE NIGHT *AFTER* CHRISTMAS.'

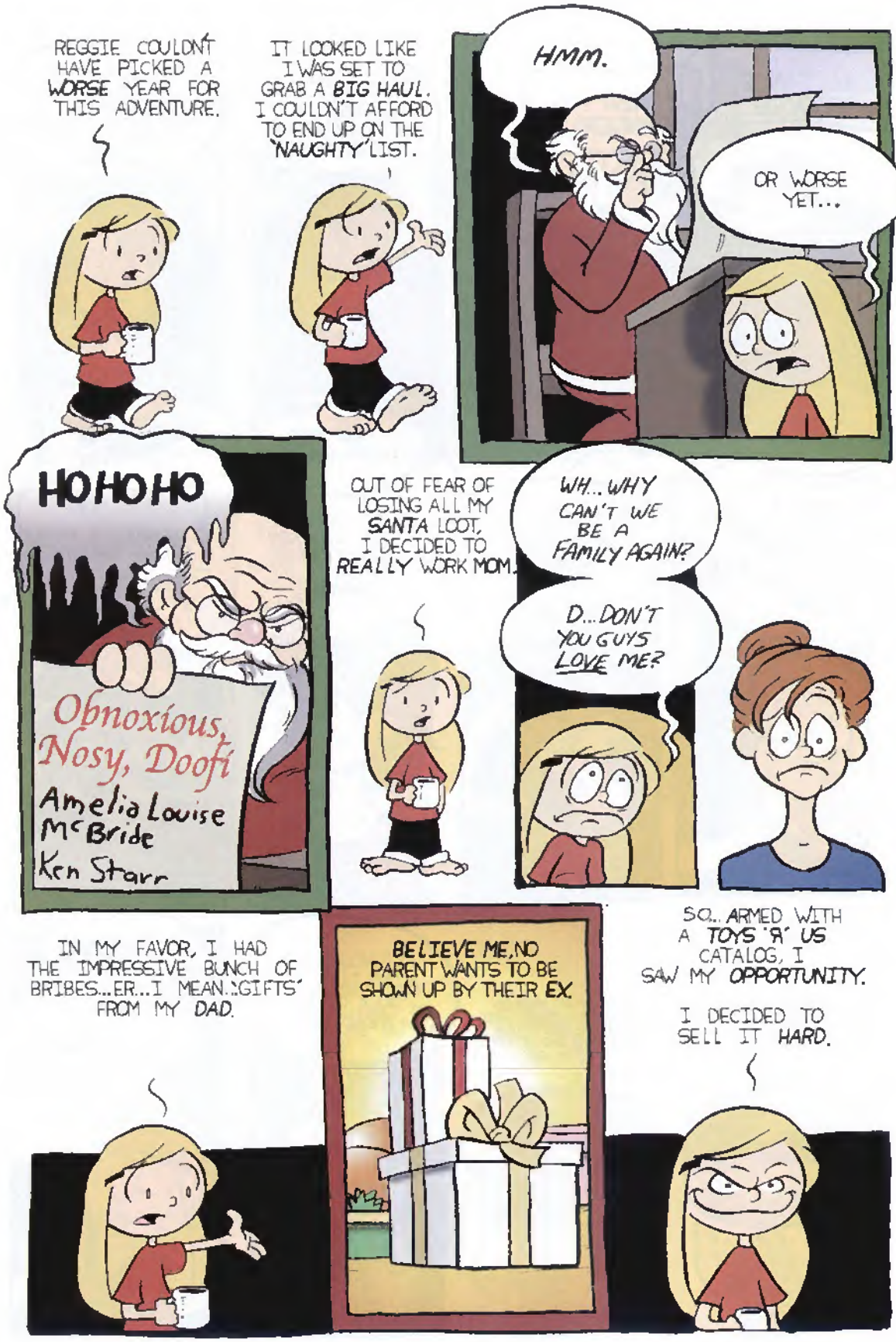
AT NO POINT IN THE YEAR, WILL WE BE FURTHER AWAY FROM NEXT CHRISTMAS THAN WE ARE RIGHT NOW.'
USUALLY, I'M QUEEN OF THE 'AFTER CHRISTMAS BLUES.'
I DIDN'T GET ENOUGH... OR WHAT I WANTED... OR... WHATEVER.
AND THEN WELL...
THEN I'D GO INTO THIS MONSTER SULK
THAT'S BEEN KNOWN TO LAST 'TIL MY BIRTHDAY!
FEBRUARY 10TH IN CASE YOU'RE SHOPPING.
BUT I DON'T KNOW THIS YEAR FEELS DIFFERENT.
:SIP:
IT'S HARD TO SAY WHEN THE WHOLE THING STARTED...
BUT I GUESS IT BEGAN WITH REGGIE...
AND THE DAY HE DECIDED TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH...
ABOUT SANTA.

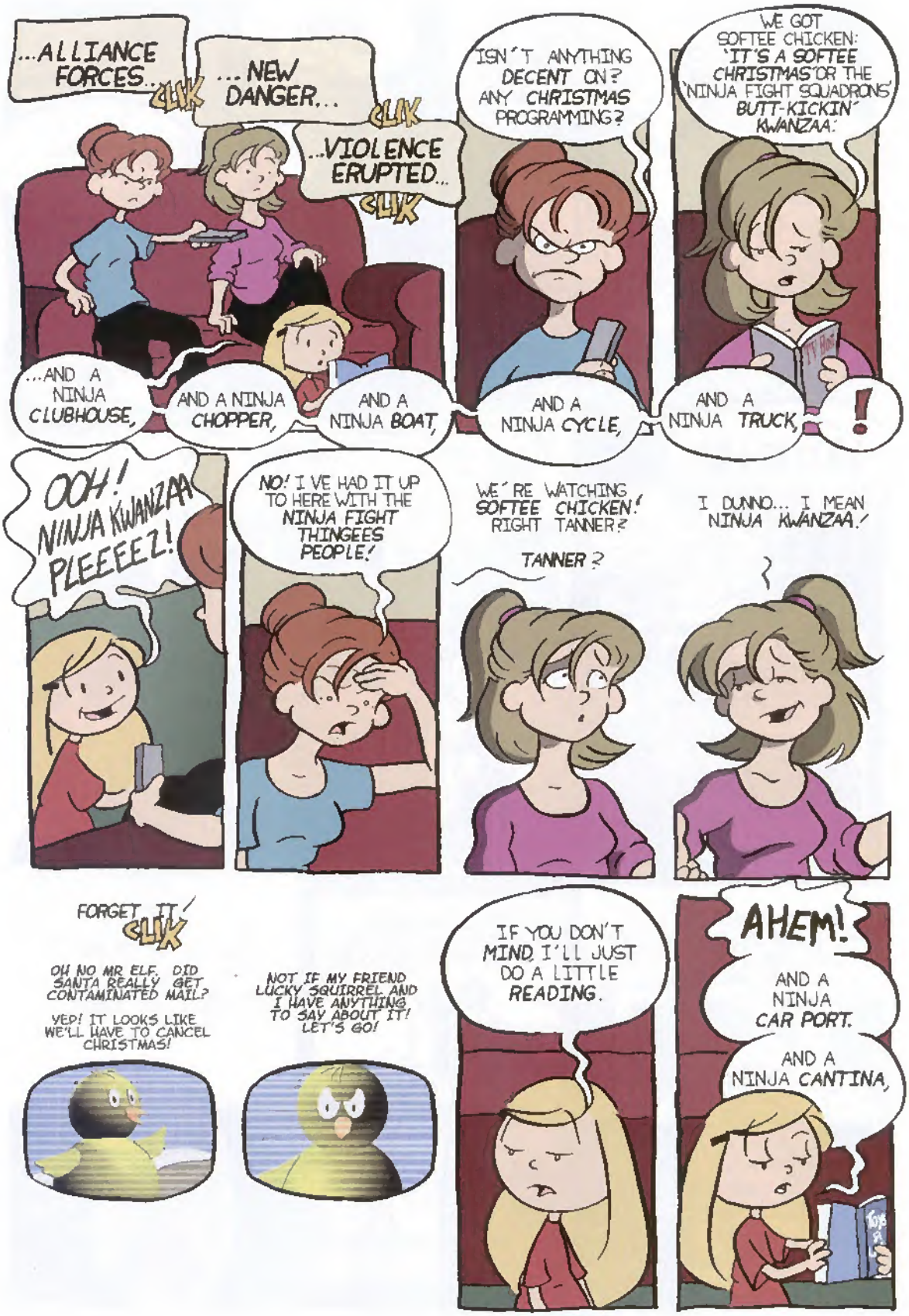
AMELIA McBRIDE and the OTHER SIDE OF YULETIDE
AMELIA, YOU'RE BACK!
YOU WERE AWAY?
FOR THREE DAYS!
SO THAT WAS WHY THE WORLD FELT FULL OF JOY!
HA HA HA
YOU WON'T BE SO SMART, WHEN YOU SEE THE PRE-CHRISTMAS LOOT I GOT!
PRE-CHRISTMAS LOOT?
YEAH FROM MY DAD.
I'VE BEEN WORKIN' ON MY DAD'S DIVORCE GUILT, AND IT PAID OFF.
BIG TIME!
VIDEO GAMES, BARBIES, CDS CHEMISTRY SET, TELESCOPE,
EASY.BAKE.OVEN.
GASP! THE HOLY GRAIL!

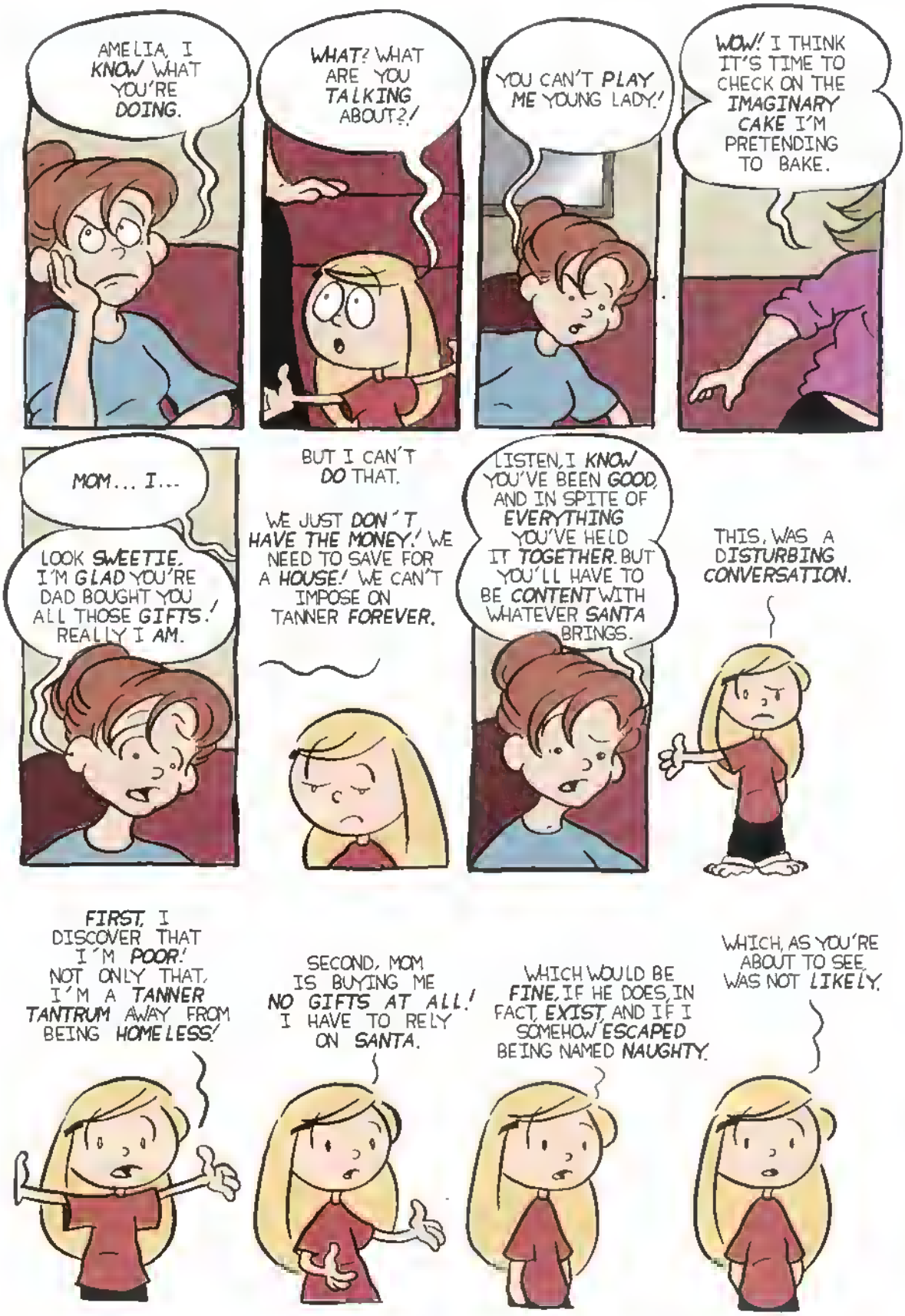
WOW! YOU MUSTA NEEDED A TRUCK TO GET IT BACK FROM NEW YORK!
JUST ABOUT!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR DAD STILL LIVED IN NEW YORK!
OH... YEAH.
THE CITY?
YEAH.
WOW!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
NO... I MEAN HE'S OKAY AN ALL?
YEAH... SURE.
SORRY GIRLS. BUT WE HAVE TO CUT THE CHIT CHAT. WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF G.A.S.P.* THAT A CERTAIN CHRISTMAS PERSONALITY HAS BEEN MISLEADING THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD!
*GATHERING OF AWESOME SUPER PALS
THE MAN IN QUESTION IS MR. S. CLAUS. WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN. HE IS PRESUMED DANGEROUS.
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

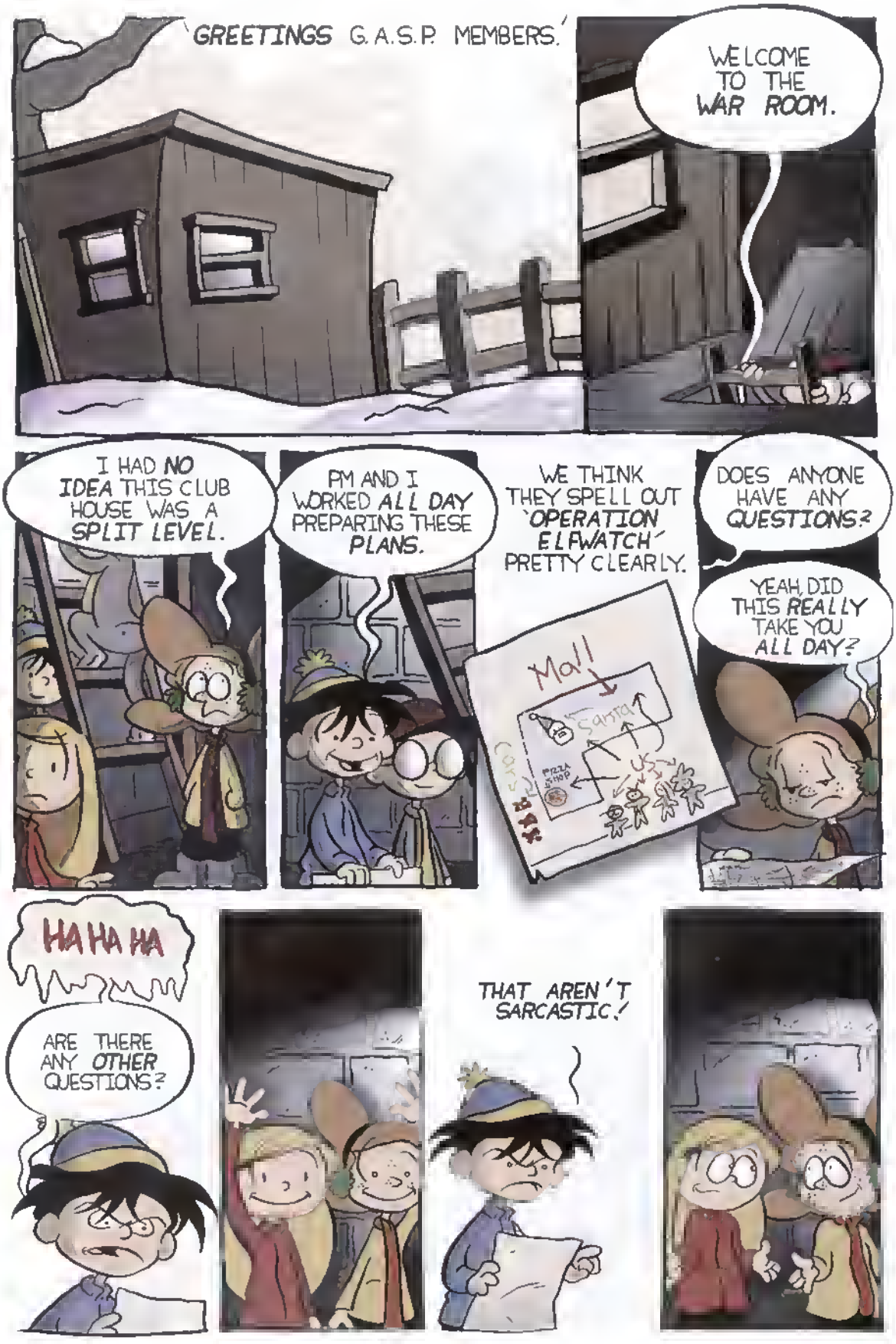

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, THAT IF WE ARE GOOD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, COME CHRISTMAS EVE, SANTA WILL REWARD US WITH GIFTS!
SADLY, THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE.
FOR WITHIN THIS ORGANIZATION, A MEMBER (WHO PREFERS TO REMAIN NAMELESS)
HAS NOT RECEIVED GIFTS FOR SOME THREE YEARS!
EVEN THOUGH HE...
OR SHE...
HAS BEEN EXCEEDINGLY GOOD!
WHAT?! NO TOYS?! NO PRESENTS?! NO... NOTHING?!
NONE.
WELL... MAYBE NOT NONE.
WITNESS LAST YEAR'S 'GIFTS' OF SOCKS, DEODORANT, AND UNDIES.
GASP


YOU'RE LYING! I CAN'T BELIEVE SANTA WOULD STIFF SOMEONE LIKE THAT!
ARE YOU KIDDING?
I DON'T BELIEVE IN SANTA AT ALL! I THINK HE'S A SHILL FOR SEARS.
SHHH!
WHAT IF HE HEARS YOU?!
THIS IS OUR MISSION, TO DISCOVER WHY SANTA IS BEING UNFAIR.
FURTHER, WHO IS BEHIND HIS FUNDING? DOES HE EVEN EXIST? AND IF SO CAN WE SUE HIM?
YOU'RE A DISTURBED LITTLE BOY DO YOU KNOW THAT?
I PRIDE MYSELF ON IT.
SO WHO'S IN... RHONDA? PAJAMAMAN? WHAT ABOUT YOU AMELIA, ARE YOU WITH US?
OOOH... I HATE PEER PRESSURE!
GREAT.
"WATCH OUT FAT MAN..."
YOU'RE GOING DOWN!


REGGIE COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A WORSE YEAR FOR THIS ADVENTURE.
IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS SET TO GRAB A BIG HAUL. I COULDN'T AFFORD TO END UP ON THE 'NAUGHTY' LIST.
HMM.
OR WORSE YET...
HOHOHO
Obnoxious, Nosy, Doofi
Amelia Louise McBride
Ken Starr
OUT OF FEAR OF LOSING ALL MY SANTA LOOT, I DECIDED TO REALLY WORK MOM.
WH...WHY CAN'T WE BE A FAMILY AGAIN?
D...DON'T YOU GUYS LOVE ME?
IN MY FAVOR, I HAD THE IMPRESSIVE BUNCH OF BRIBES...ER...I MEAN..'GIFTS' FROM MY DAD.
BELIEVE ME, NO PARENT WANTS TO BE SHOWN UP BY THEIR EX.
SO.. ARMED WITH A TOYS 'R' US CATALOG, I SAW MY OPPORTUNITY.
I DECIDED TO SELL IT HARD.


...ALLIANCE FORCES..
CLIK
...NEW DANGER...
CLIK
...VIOLENCE ERUPTED...
CLIK
...AND A NINJA CLUBHOUSE,
AND A NINJA CHOPPER,
AND A NINJA BOAT,
ISN'T ANYTHING DECENT ON? ANY CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING?
AND A NINJA CYCLE,
WE GOT SOFTEE CHICKEN: 'IT'S A SOFTEE CHRISTMAS' OR THE 'NINJA FIGHT SQUADRONS' BUTT-KICKIN' KWANZAA.
AND A NINJA TRUCK,
!
OOH! NINJA KWANZAA PLEEEEZ!
NO! I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH THE NINJA FIGHT THINGEES PEOPLE!
WE'RE WATCHING SOFTEE CHICKEN! RIGHT TANNER?
TANNER?
I DUNNO... I MEAN NINJA KWANZAA!
FORGET IT!
CLIK
OH NO MR ELF. DID SANTA REALLY GET CONTAMINATED MAIL?
YEP! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL CHRISTMAS!
NOT IF MY FRIEND LUCKY SQUIRREL AND I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT! LET'S GO!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL JUST DO A LITTLE READING.
AHEM!
AND A NINJA CAR PORT.
AND A NINJA CANTINA,


AMELIA, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU CAN'T PLAY ME YOUNG LADY!
WOW! I THINK IT'S TIME TO CHECK ON THE IMAGINARY CAKE I'M PRETENDING TO BAKE.
MOM... I...
LOOK SWEETIE. I'M GLAD YOU'RE DAD BOUGHT YOU ALL THOSE GIFTS. REALLY I AM.
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.
WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE MONEY. WE NEED TO SAVE FOR A HOUSE! WE CAN'T IMPOSE ON TANNER FOREVER.
LISTEN, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN GOOD, AND IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE HELD IT TOGETHER. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BE CONTENT WITH WHATEVER SANTA BRINGS.
THIS WAS A DISTURBING CONVERSATION.
FIRST, I DISCOVER THAT I'M POOR! NOT ONLY THAT, I'M A TANNER TANTRUM AWAY FROM BEING HOMELESS!
SECOND, MOM IS BUYING ME NO GIFTS AT ALL! I HAVE TO RELY ON SANTA.
WHICH WOULD BE FINE, IF HE DOES, IN FACT, EXIST, AND IF I SOMEHOW ESCAPED BEING NAMED NAUGHTY.
WHICH, AS YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE, WAS NOT LIKELY.


GREETINGS G.A.S.P. MEMBERS.
WELCOME TO THE WAR ROOM.
I HAD NO IDEA THIS CLUB HOUSE WAS A SPLIT LEVEL.
PM AND I WORKED ALL DAY PREPARING THESE PLANS.
WE THINK THEY SPELL OUT 'OPERATION ELFWATCH' PRETTY CLEARLY.
Mall
Santa
PIZZA SHOP
DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
YEAH, DID THIS REALLY TAKE YOU ALL DAY?
HA HA HA
ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?
THAT AREN'T SARCASTIC!

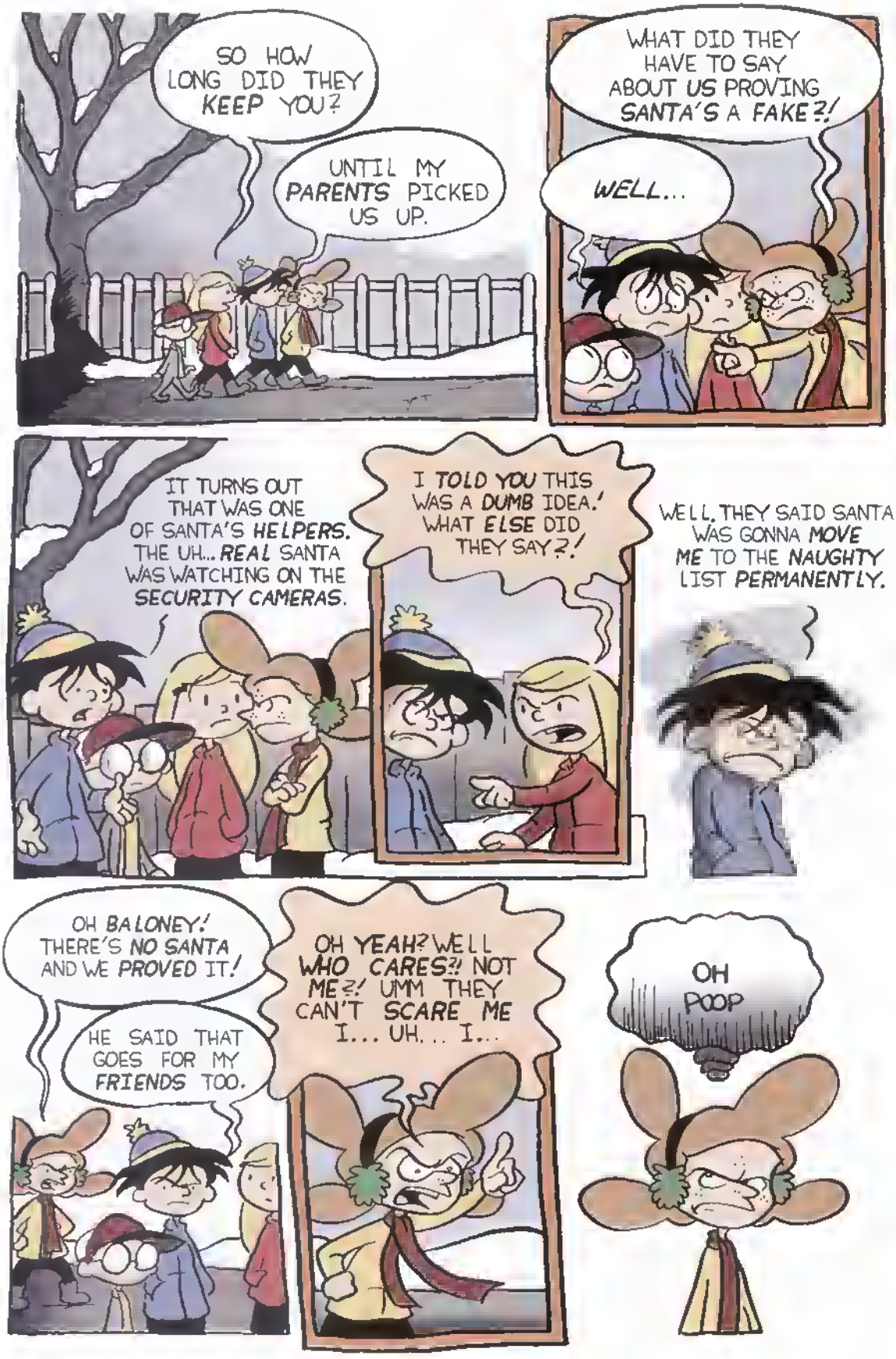
Consumaway Shopping Center
Today: Meet Santa
PRINCESS POWERFUL REPORTING CHECK POINT ALPHA CLEAR.
MS. MAGINIFICENT REPORTING CHECK POINT BETA CLEAR.
STINKY, BUT CLEAR.
TRASH
GOOD WORK. 'JOLLY PAPA' AND THE 'MOLE' ARE GOING IN.
WHAT'S THAT?
FINE, NEXT TIME YOU PICK THE CODE NAMES.
CHECK POINT ALPHA STILL CLEAR. THE OPERATION SHOULD BE PRETTY SMOOTH.
Hey Amelia.. ¿como esta?
OH
NO

HELLO REGINALD! HELLO MR PAJAMAS!
HELLO MARY VIOLET.
Are you boys here to see santa?
UMMM... SORTA.
me TOO, I have a very IMPORTANT question for him.
HO HO HO HELLO LITTLE GIRL. WHAT CAN SANTA DO FOR YOU?
I just have a QUESTION.
Why do you allow so much PAIN and SUFFERING to happen to PEOPLE who are GOOD and DECENT and PURE of HEART?
OH I'M SORRY DEAR... I...I'M ONLY SANTA CLAUS. I...I'M NOT GOD!
I SEE...
What Mall is HE at?

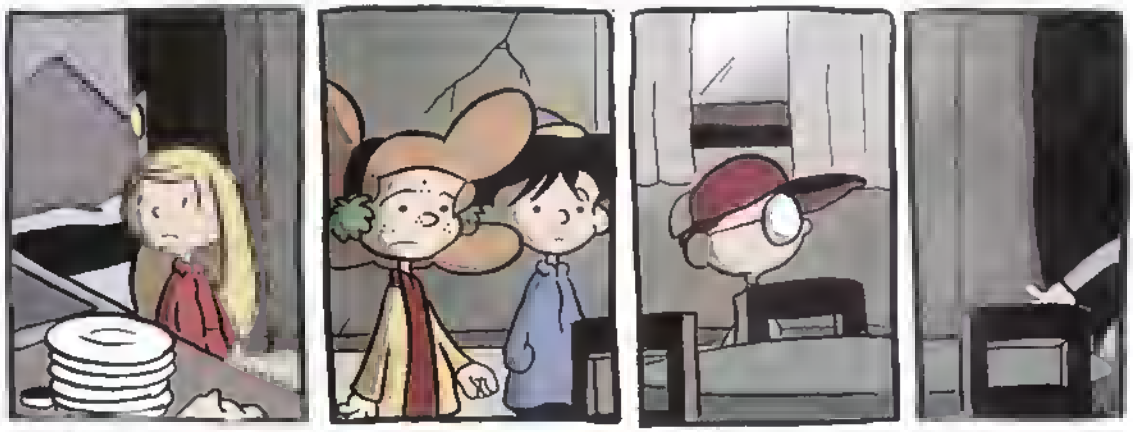
OKAY, THEY'RE HAULING MARY VIOLET AWAY. NOW'S OUR CHANCE.
LET'S DO IT.
So Why are you all dressed UP 'n' all?
NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX!
Gee. No need ta be Snippy. I was just askin'?
:SIGH:
WE'RE TRYIN' TO FIGURE OUT IF SANTA IS REAL. OKAY?
Oh He's REAL all right.
My Dad says He's Backed by the 'Feds'. He's not the only one who wants ta know who's NAUGHTY.
OWEN, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SMELL LIKE CHEESE?
I gotta go.

MAYDAY! MAYDAY! THE FAT MAN IS SINGING!
THIS IS CODE RED ON ELFWATCH! REPEAT CODE RED!
REPORT TO SANTA'S VILLAGE IMMEDIATELY!
SECURITY! SECURITY! GET THESE NUT JOBS OFFA ME!
JOLLY PAPA NEEDS BACK UP!
RRRR!
AHA!
MY FELLOW CHILDREN, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT
SANTA CLAUS...
IS...

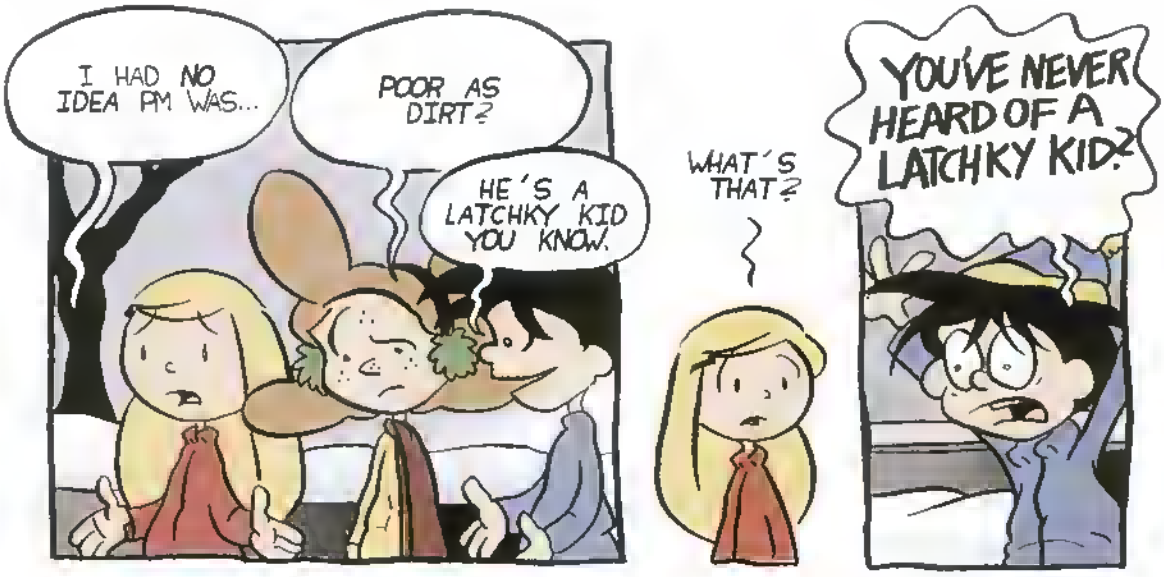
A FRAUD
BUT FEAR NOT. THIS IS THE MOMENT OF OUR LIBERATION!
WAAH
WE ARE FREE FROM THE MYTH OF SANTA!
WAAH
FREE FROM THE TYRANNY OF HIS OPRESSIVE GAZE!
WAAH
FREE FROM ...
THE... uh...
WAAH
DON'T WORRY LITTLE BOY. THIS IS A GOOD THING. WITH SANTA DEFEATED, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE NAUGHTY. THERE'S NO ONE TO ANSWER TO.
SNIFF SNIFF
AHEM
oms
ourt
ffice


SO HOW LONG DID THEY KEEP YOU?
UNTIL MY PARENTS PICKED US UP.
WHAT DID THEY HAVE TO SAY ABOUT US PROVING SANTA'S A FAKE?!
WELL...
IT TURNS OUT THAT WAS ONE OF SANTA'S HELPERS. THE UH... REAL SANTA WAS WATCHING ON THE SECURITY CAMERAS.
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A DUMB IDEA! WHAT ELSE DID THEY SAY?!
WELL, THEY SAID SANTA WAS GONNA MOVE ME TO THE NAUGHTY LIST PERMANENTLY.
OH BALONEY! THERE'S NO SANTA AND WE PROVED IT!
HE SAID THAT GOES FOR MY FRIENDS TOO.
OH YEAH? WELL WHO CARES?! NOT ME?! UMM THEY CAN'T SCARE ME I... UH... I...
OH POOP

THE PLACE WAS TINY, AND KIND OF A MESS. IT WAS PRETTY OBVIOUS HIS FOLKS DIDN'T HAVE MUCH MONEY. I HAD BEEN FEELING SORTA SORRY FOR MYSELF AFTER WHAT MY MOM SAID, BUT SUDDENLY I WAS FEELING PRETTY LUCKY.



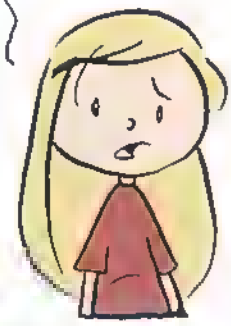
WHILE PM WAS OUT OF THE ROOM, I NOTICED THIS CLIPPING FROM A CATALOG TAPED TO THE FRIDGE. IT CAUGHT MY EYE 'CUZ IT WAS FOR THE 'RED CAPTAIN NINJA' WHICH WAS AT THE TOP OF MY 'WANT LIST.' I REALLY THOUGHT DAD WOULD COME THROUGH WITH IT, BUT I GUESS THEY'RE PRETTY HARD TO FIND.



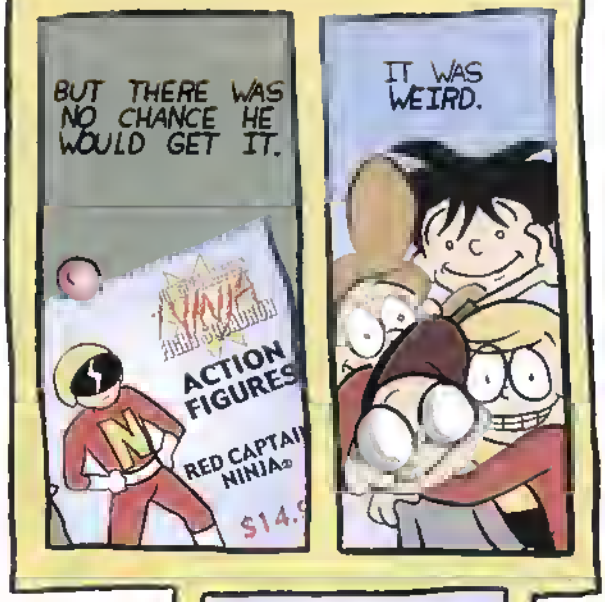
Latchicus Keykidius (The Common Latchky Kid) The Latchkys were a group of children decended from Polish nobility, who lived in Warsaw during the time of the Cold War. To protect thenselves from the freezing temperatures brought on by this war, they wore big hats (fig.1). Disgusted by their treatment at the hands of Communism, and appalled by the state of modern Polka Music, the Latchkys fled Warsaw in the middle of the night (fig.2). Not being able to afford passage on a ship, theLatchkys were forced to swim the icy Atlantic, buffered from the elements only by their brains, their raw courage, and their big hats. (Fig.3).

Upon finally reaching the shores of America, the Latchkys quickly forgot their past hardships, and, throwing off their water logged clothing, danced Butt Nekkid (Except of course for the hats.)in the streets(fig 4.). Their decendents (including Pajamaman) live in the US to this day where they remain free to express their love of Liberty, Polka and Big Hats.

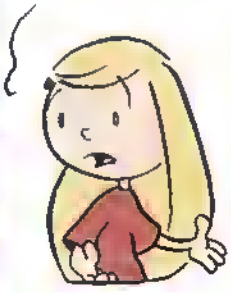
BUT NO MATTER *WHAT*, I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT *PAJAMAMAN'S HOUSE*, AND THAT STUPID CLIPPING.



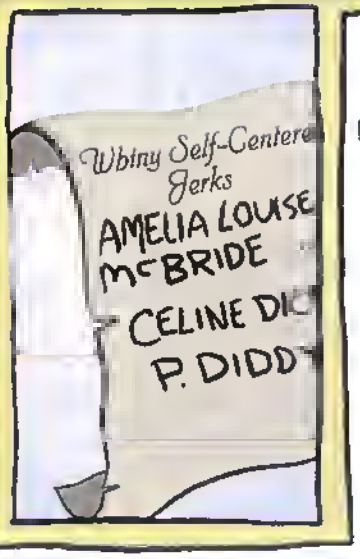
I ASKED *REGGIE* ABOUT IT, AND HE SAID PM WAS PROBABLY *HINTING* THAT HE WANTED IT FOR CHRISTMAS...



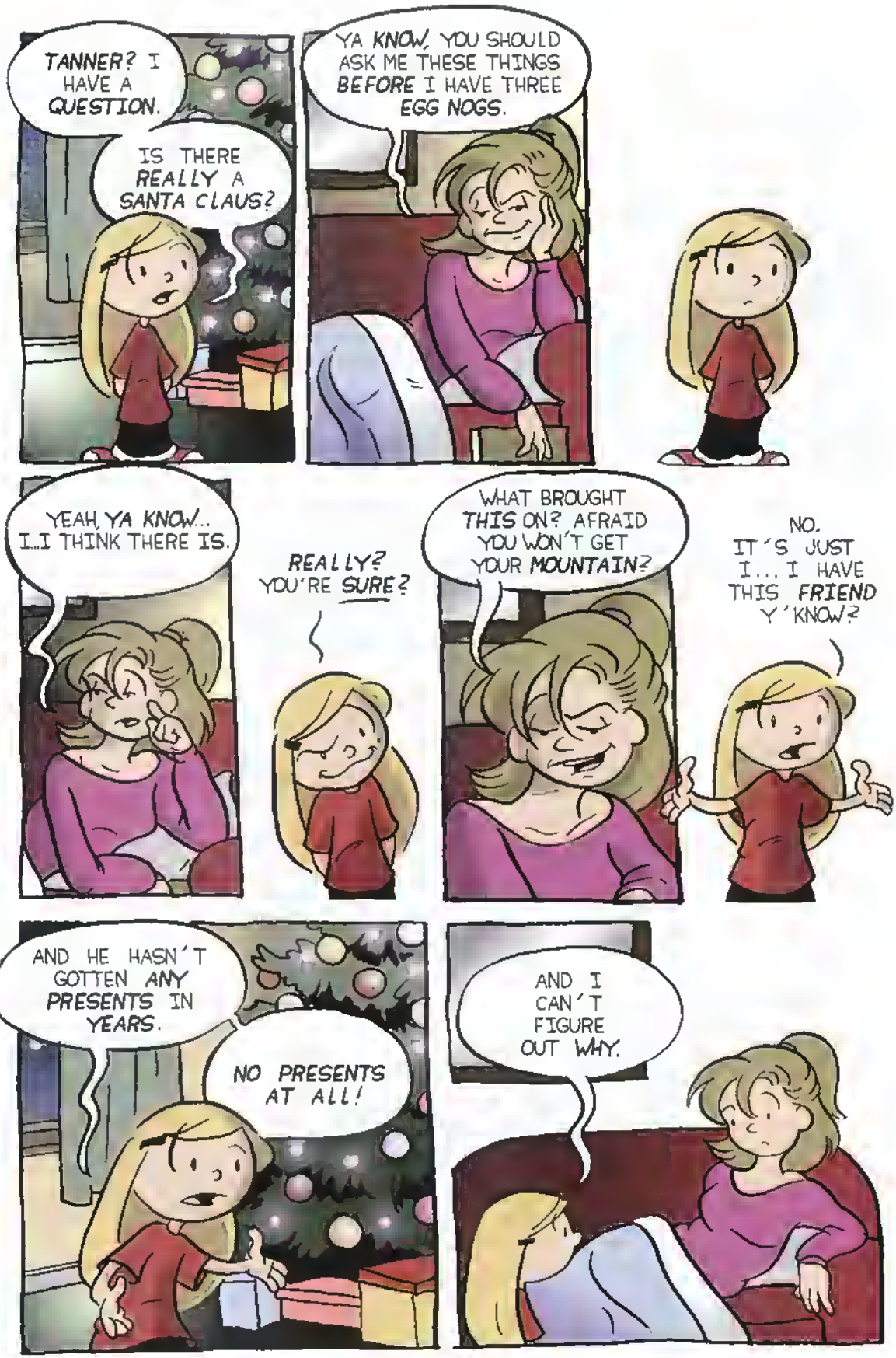
I WAS JUST USED TO THESE GUYS BEING MY FRIENDS. I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHO WAS RICH OR POOR.

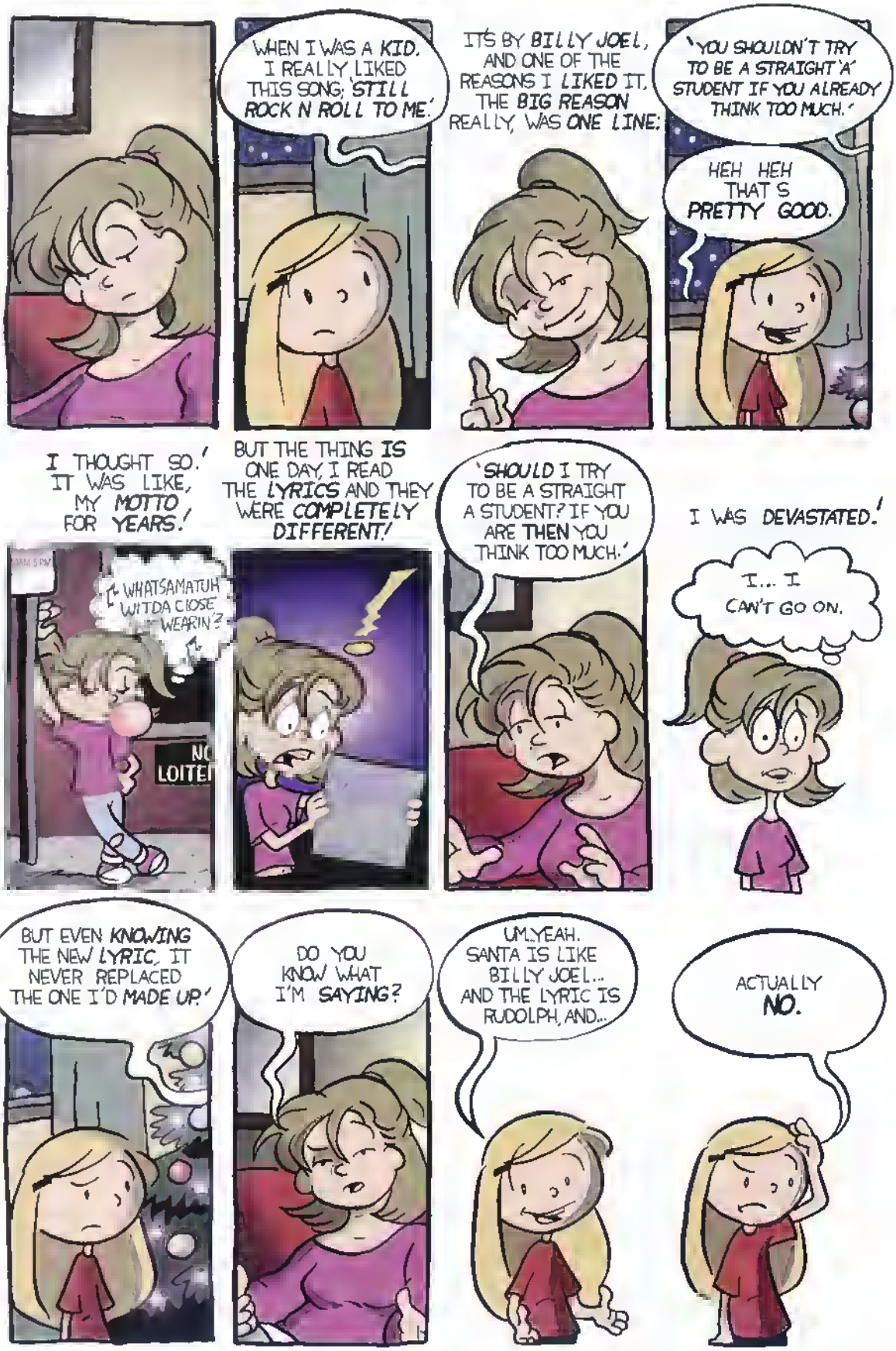


AND EVEN THOUGH I FELT *BAD* FOR PM, I STILL *REALLY WANTED* A MOUNTAIN OF PRESENTS FOR *ME*. WHICH PROBABLY PUT ME AT THE TOP OF A *NEW LIST*...

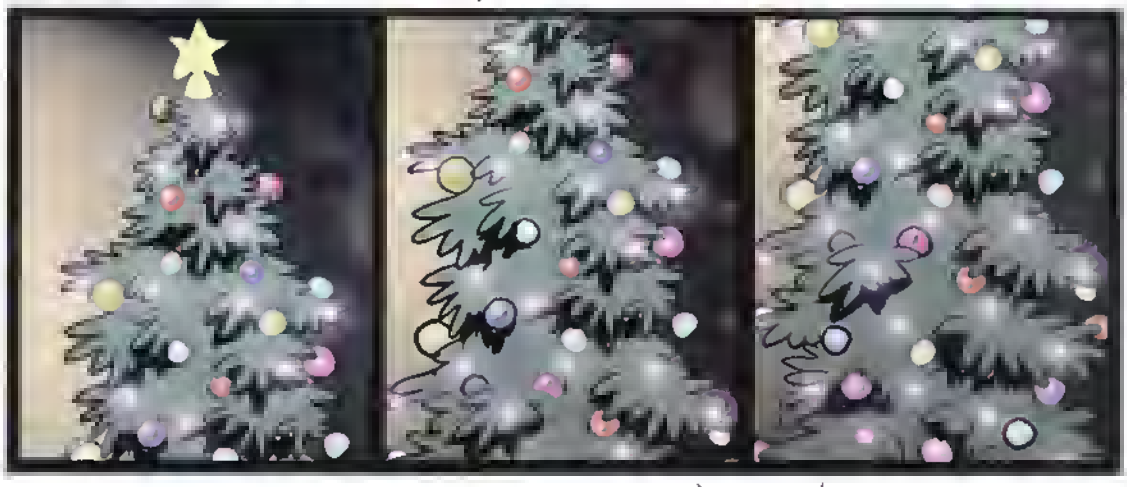


ADD TO THIS THE NAGGING QUESTION OF WHY SANTA WOULD IGNORE SOMEONE LIKE PAJAMAMAN, AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I COULD DO...


TANNER? I HAVE A QUESTION.
IS THERE REALLY A SANTA CLAUS?
YA KNOW, YOU SHOULD ASK ME THESE THINGS BEFORE I HAVE THREE EGG NOGS.
YEAH, YA KNOW... I...I THINK THERE IS.
REALLY? YOU'RE SURE?
WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON? AFRAID YOU WON'T GET YOUR MOUNTAIN?
NO. IT'S JUST I... I HAVE THIS FRIEND Y'KNOW?
AND HE HASN'T GOTTEN ANY PRESENTS IN YEARS.
NO PRESENTS AT ALL!
AND I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY.


WHEN I WAS A KID, I REALLY LIKED THIS SONG; 'STILL ROCK N ROLL TO ME.'
IT'S BY BILLY JOEL, AND ONE OF THE REASONS I LIKED IT, THE BIG REASON REALLY, WAS ONE LINE:
'YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO BE A STRAIGHT 'A' STUDENT IF YOU ALREADY THINK TOO MUCH.'
HEH HEH THAT'S PRETTY GOOD.
I THOUGHT SO.' IT WAS LIKE, MY MOTTO FOR YEARS.'
WHATSAMATUH WITDA CLOSE WEARIN'?
BUT THE THING IS ONE DAY, I READ THE LYRICS AND THEY WERE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!'
'SHOULD I TRY TO BE A STRAIGHT A STUDENT? IF YOU ARE THEN YOU THINK TOO MUCH.'
I WAS DEVASTATED.'
I... I CAN'T GO ON.
BUT EVEN KNOWING THE NEW LYRIC, IT NEVER REPLACED THE ONE I'D MADE UP.'
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?
UM.YEAH. SANTA IS LIKE BILLY JOEL... AND THE LYRIC IS RUDOLPH, AND...
ACTUALLY NO.

THERE IS REAL MAGIC AT CHRISTMAS, YA KNOW? I'MEAN IT'S COMPLETELY CORNY, AND I'D PROBABLY BE STRIPPED OF MY REPLACEMENTS FAN CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR SAYING SO, BUT ITS TRUE. AND ANY TIME YOU FIND MAGIC IN THIS WORLD, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT HARD TO KEEP IT.



I THINK WHAT YOU'RE REALLY ASKING THOUGH IS WHY ISN'T LIFE FAIR? AND I'M SORRY SWEETIE, BUT I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER. BUT LISTEN, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SUCH A HEAVY HEART ON CHRISTMAS EVE. SO CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND BE CERTAIN THAT SANTA IS ON HIS WAY.

PSST
AMELIA.
Hmm...
WHA..?
WHOSAT..?
HO HO HO
SANTA?
WOW

I RULE!
I KNEW THE FAT GUY WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN! NOW LET'S SEE... HOW ABOUT WE START WITH...
THIS ONE!
RIP TEAR SHRED TEAR RIP
A HAT? LET'S HOPE THIS IS A LITTLE ELFIN HUMOR.
AH THIS LITTLE BEAUTY IS A KEEPER. I CAN FEEL IT!
RIP TEAR SHRED TEAR RIP

WELCOME
WELCOME
CREAK
TIP TAP
TIP TAP

?
!
RIP
RIP
RIP
RIP
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RIP
RIP

NINJA
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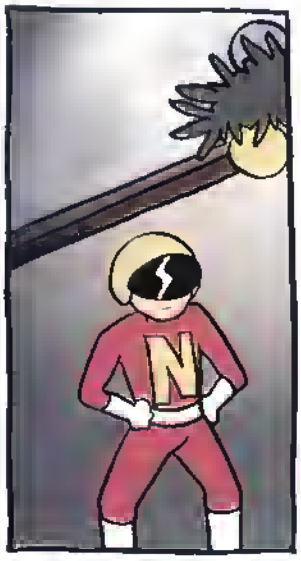
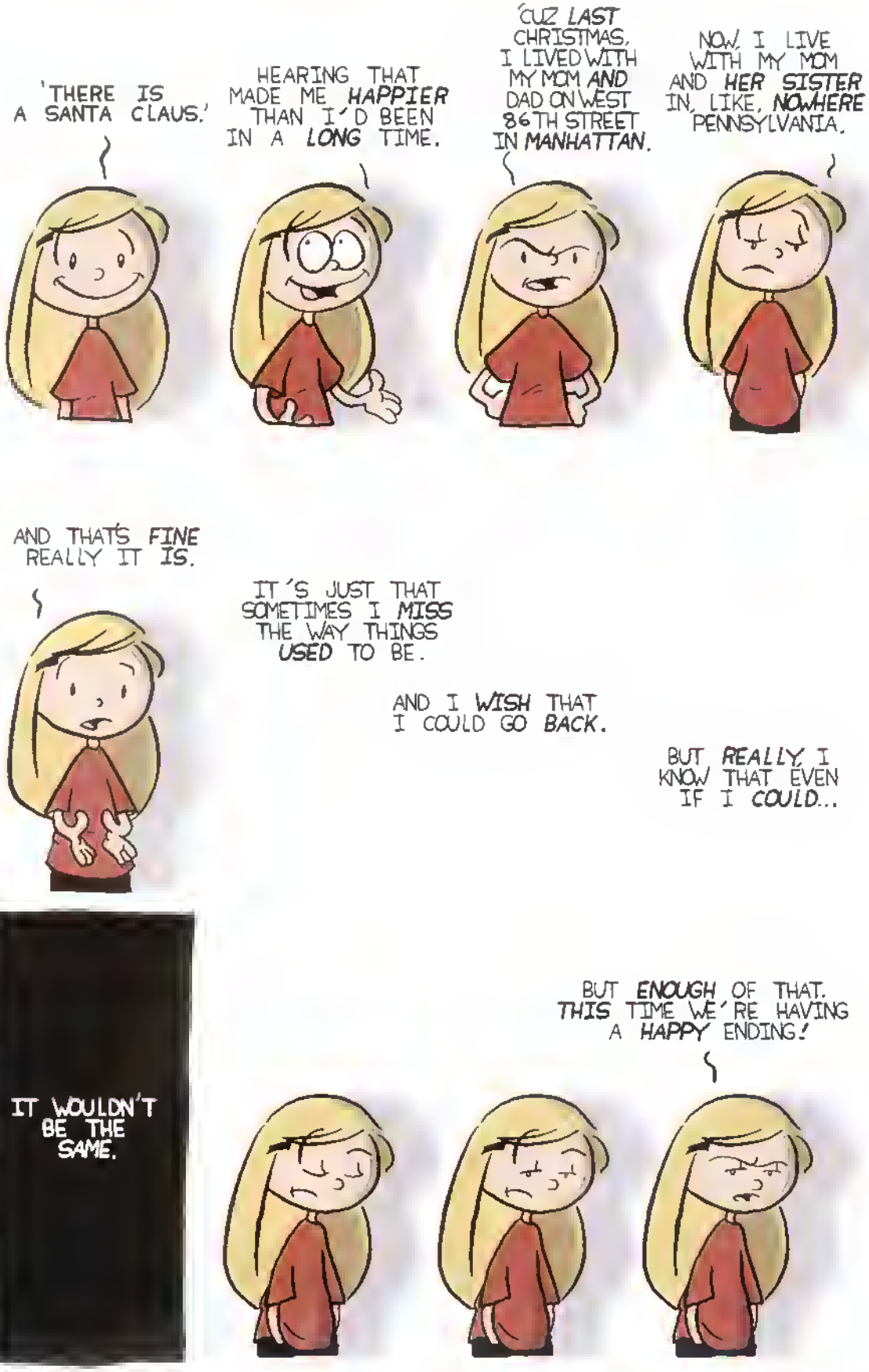
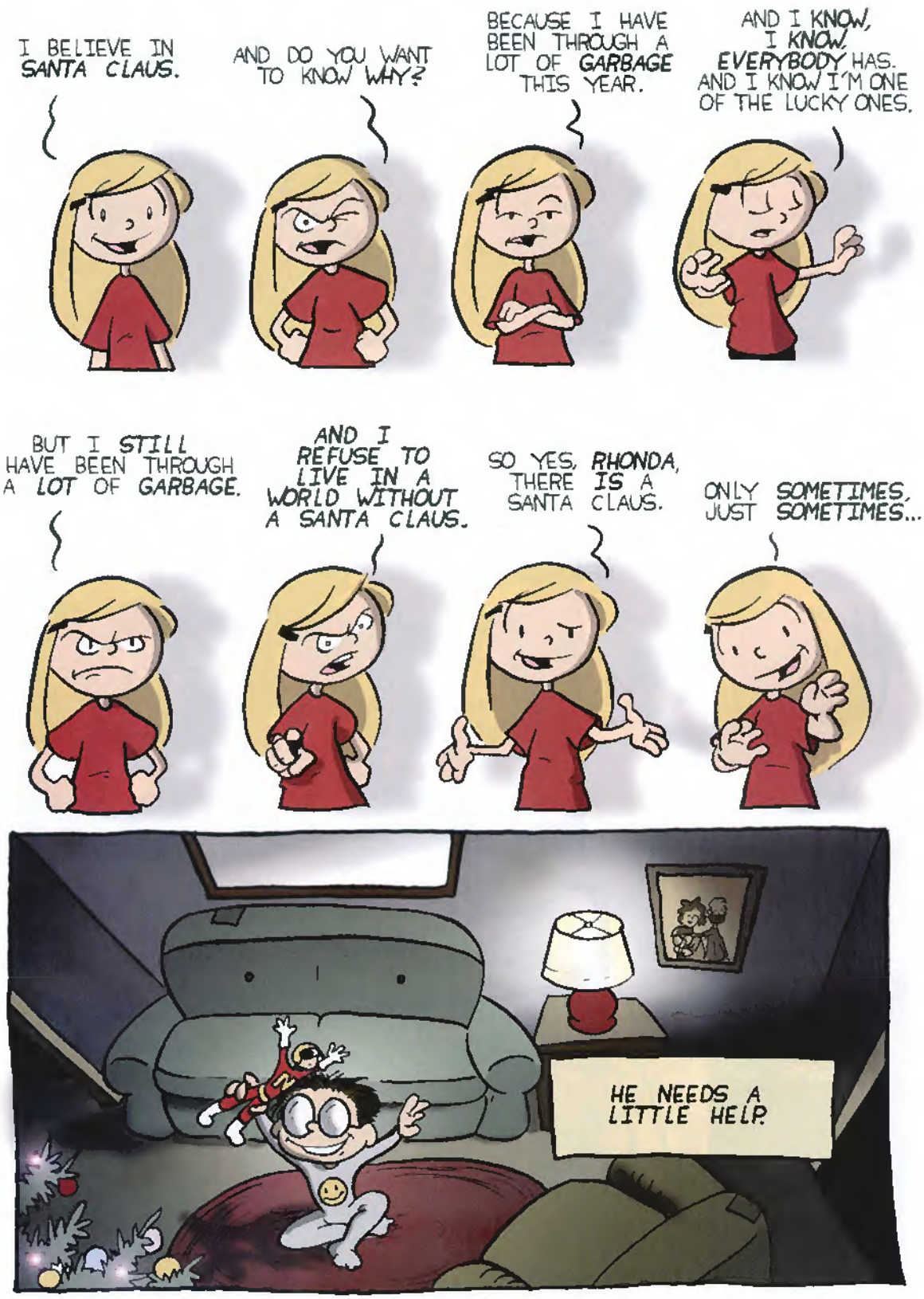

N

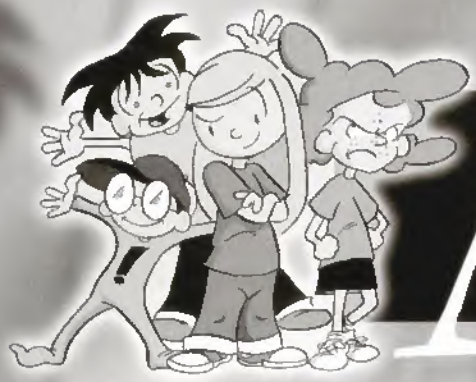
N

CREEEK
?
SLAM
!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT RED CAPTAIN NINJA!
HEY GUYS. WHAT'S UP?
AMELIA COME ON IN! YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED!
THERE IS A SANTA! PM PROVED IT!
HE SAW HIM LEAVING HIS HOUSE!
HE SAID HE WAS KINDA SHORT. BUT IT WAS DEFINITELY HIM!
HE EVEN DROPPED HIS HAT!


'THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS.'
HEARING THAT MADE ME HAPPIER THAN I'D BEEN IN A LONG TIME.
'CUZ LAST CHRISTMAS, I LIVED WITH MY MOM AND DAD ON WEST 86TH STREET IN MANHATTAN.
NOW, I LIVE WITH MY MOM AND HER SISTER IN, LIKE, NOWHERE PENNSYLVANIA.
AND THAT'S FINE REALLY IT IS.
IT'S JUST THAT SOMETIMES I MISS THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE.
AND I WISH THAT I COULD GO BACK.
BUT, REALLY, I KNOW THAT EVEN IF I COULD...
IT WOULDN'T BE THE SAME.
BUT ENOUGH OF THAT. THIS TIME WE'RE HAVING A HAPPY ENDING!


I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS.
AND DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF GARBAGE THIS YEAR.
AND I KNOW, I KNOW. EVERYBODY HAS. AND I KNOW I'M ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES.
BUT I STILL HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF GARBAGE.
AND I REFUSE TO LIVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT A SANTA CLAUS.
SO YES, RHONDA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS.
ONLY SOMETIMES, JUST SOMETIMES...
HE NEEDS A LITTLE HELP.



A-MAIL

PO BOX 5060 HARRISBURG PA 17110
EMAIL:JGOWNLEY@ALTAVISTA.COM

HELP MAKE A MERRIER CHRISTMAS!

I'm afraid I had to eliminate the letters column this month, as we have a very special announcement to make.

The original artwork for this issue of ***Amelia Rules!*** will be auctioned off on E-Boy with ***all proceeds*** going to benefit the United States Marine Corps.' ***Toys For Tots*** Campaign.

In order to encourage bidding, we are setting our starting bids extremely low. Some pages will start as low as $10. All pages are the original pen and ink drawings used to create this book. The pages will be signed by me, with the inscription of the winner's choosing.

This is a very exciting opportunity for us to help out a charity which does great work, and it's a great chance for you readers to get original ***Amelia*** art for prices you are not likely to see again.
Bidding will begin on December 19th, and end at midnight on New Years Eve. With 32 pages available, and the attractive opening bid levels, I'm hoping a great many of you will take the opportunity to help the Marines kick off their 2002 fund. So get bidding!

That's about it for this issue, I hope everybody has a wonderful Holiday Season (Extra special St. Dagobert Greetings to Michael), and we'll see you all back here in a mere 60 days.

Oh, wait I almost forgot to thank Karen for the extra production help she gave me on this issue. The fact that this issue is on time, is due in large part to her extra effort. Thanks honey, we can sleep now.

Please contribute to the United Way's
September 11th fund by calling 1-800-710-8002 or
on the internet at www.september11.org

HOO HOO

I invented downloading

Tell em' Fred.....

Slanned

by

realsandman